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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

DATE DISTR. 24 December 1952

SUBJECT Travel Restrictions in the Border Area

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. Sometime during September 1951, the Bulgarian government officially announced that cattle owned by the inhabitants of the Topolevgrad, Elkhovo, and Svilengrad districts were infected with foot-and-mouth disease (smad).¹ Residents of these areas had allegedly contracted the disease as well, and the government imposed a quarantine. A veterinarian, aided by one or two members of the Militia, was made responsible for enforcing the quarantine, and residents were given permission to travel only in cases of extreme emergency.

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2. In early 1952, it was reported that special permits, known as Billet Za Shap, had to be obtained from a local veterinary service, validated by a military cachet, and used in place of an Otkrit List for travel in border areas.
3. According to a resident of one of these areas, the quarantine was still in effect in February 1952, although only three or four head of cattle in his area had been infected, and those only after being given an injection by the veterinarian (sic). Residents of the quarantined areas believed that their cattle never had the disease and that the quarantine was imposed to prevent contact between inhabitants of the border towns.

25X1 4. [] Yambol district reported [] that during the last six months he spent in Bulgaria [] he had to present a paper from his local village council certifying that the village was free from foot-and-mouth disease before he was allowed to purchase a rail ticket. This paper was required at the three stations where he purchased tickets: Yambol, Iskŭr village, Karnobat district, and Malomir village, Yambol district. He was not asked to show the paper at any time during his journeys.²

25X1 1. [] Comment: Shap was previously translated as glanders, but it has now been found to mean foot-and-mouth disease.

25X1 25X1 2. [] Comment: [] not state whether he was required to renew this paper periodically or obtain a new one for each trip.

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